

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00202 131819Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 077182

O 131720Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7530

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GENEVA 0202

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: SREF TH

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF MUONG REFUGEES FROM NAM PHONG

REF: STATE 007572, GENEVA 0099

1. I CALLED ON HCR SADRUDIN AGA KHAN THIS AFTERNOON TO PRESENT POINTS MADE IN STATE 7572. PRESENT ALSO AT MEETING WERE DIRECTOR OF ASSISTANCE DIVISION JAEGER, OTTO GOBIUS, AND STAFF AID RIZVI.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION, SADRUDIN FIRST OUTLINED STANDING UNHCR POLICY AGAINST MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TOWARD BORDERS AS REPORTED GENEVA 0099. HAVING MADE THIS POINT, HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED TO SAY THAT UNHCR WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE THAI MOI IN CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF MUONG REFUGEES AT LOEI AND PETCHABUN AS OF APRIL 1. MUONG WERE IN ANY CASE INCLUDED AMONG ORIGINAL 40,000 REFUGEES IN THAILAND FOR WHOM UNHCR HAD UNDERTAKEN RESPONSIBILITY, HE OBSERVED.

3. HE AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT US GOVERNMENT DIRECT SUPPORT OF MUONG REFUGEES WOULD END AS OF MARCH 31, 1976, THOUGH ONE SAID THIS WAS FIRST NOTICE THEY HAD RECEIVED. GROUP URGED THAT US SUPPORT BETWEEN NOW AND CLOSEOUT DATE BE DIRECTED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 00202 131819Z

FACILITIES AT RELOCATION SITES, AND THAT, IF POSSIBLE,

ANY US FUNDS REMAINING AS OF END OF PERIOD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THIS PURPOSE.

4. SADRUDIN, AS HE HAD DONE EARLIER, CONTENDED MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THIS, AS IN OTHER PARTS OF THAI REFUGEE PROGRAM WAS THE BUREAUCRACY AND SXTREMELY SLOW MOVEMENT OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN THIS SECTOR. IT WAS SUGGESTED BY GOBIUS THAT THIS COULD BE DILIBERATELY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, THAT FUNDS NOT BE DISBURSED SO AS TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF REFUGEES IN DISAPROPORTION TO THE DOMESTIC POPULATION. IN ANY CASE, SADRUDIN POINTED OUT, THAT OF \$10 MILLION. AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE TO UNHCR, ONLY \$3.1 MILLION HAD BEEN SPENT TO DATE. HE URGED THAT WE DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROD THE RTG AHEAD ON THIS MATTER. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REVERTED TO THE ISSUE OF A NEW APPEAL FOR FUNDS, SAYING THAT IT IS WELL KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERED THAT UNHCR IS PRESENTLY SITTING ON A LARGE SUM OF MONEY THAT IT IS UNABLE TO SPEND BECAUSE OF THE SLOW MOVEMENT OF THE RTG. IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO LAUNCH ANOTHER APPEAL AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE NOW PLANS TO DO SO "IN THE SPRING, MARCH OR APRIL", DIRECTED TO ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AND NOT ONLY TO A SELECTED FEW AS IN THE PAST.

5. IN THIS REGARD, SADRUDIN AND HIS STAFF URGED AGAIN THAT OUR FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN TRANSPORTING REFUGEE FROM THAILAND TO THIRD COUNTRIES AND IN PARTICULAR TO FRANCE, WHICH IS AGREEABLE TO ACCEPTING BETWEEN 500 AND 600 PER MONTH. THEY REPEATED A POINT MADE PREVIOUSLY THAT, BY EASING THE CASELOAD IN THAILAND, SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE IN OUR OWN LONG TERM BEST INTERESTS.

6. WITH SOME VIGOR, SADRUDIN COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE RTG PROBABLY HAD ITS OWN REASONS FOR DOING SO, HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT CONCIEVE A WORST PLACE TO MOVE THE 12,700 MUONG THAN THE LOEI-PETCHABUN AREA,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 00202 131819Z

TERMING THE ACTION "PROVOCATIVE". THE DECISION TO HAVE UNHCR COOPERATE IN THE VENTURE WAS CLEARLY ONE TAKEN WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE. HE MADE THE GRATITUIOUS OBSERVATION THAT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP HAD ALREADY COST THE UNITED STATRES CONSIDERABLE MONEY BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THEIR OWN COUNTRY. RIZVI, NOTING THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE RELOCATION SITE TO THE LAO BORDER ONLY HALF FACETIOUSLY NOTED THAT

WITH THE MEKONG SHIFTING ITS BED AS IT FREQUENTLY DOES,  
IT WAS NOT BEYOND THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT THE  
MUONG REFUGEES MIGHT ONE DAY FIND THEMSELVES  
BACK IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. GOBIUS OBSERVED THAT  
THE HEAD COST OF THE MUONG REFUGEES WOULD BE  
DRIVEN CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THAT FOR OTHER  
REFUGEES IN THAILAND DUE TO EXPENSES INVOLVED IN  
THIS MOVE. DALE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GENEVA00202  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760012-0304  
**From:** GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760163/aaaacdzi.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 7572, 76 GENEVA 99  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RELOCATION OF MUONG REFUGEES FROM NAM PHONG  
**TAGS:** SREF, TH  
**To:** STATE BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006